



For Immediate Release
September 5, 2013

**Fire Marshal's Office Urges Educators
to Teach Fire Safety**

September Campus Fire Safety Month

JACKSON –State educators are today being urged by State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney to teach the state's young adults about fire-safe behavior to ensure they remain safe during their college years and beyond as part of the annual nationwide observance of September as Campus Fire Safety Month.

"Student housing fires in Mississippi and other states have, over the years, tragically cut short the lives of promising young people," Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney said.

Since 2000, 162 people have died in campus-related fires across the nation with over 85% of them occurring in off-campus occupancies, as identified by Campus Firewatch. The number of fire deaths had been decreasing from a high of 20 fatalities in the 2006-2007 academic year; the 2012-2013 academic year saw 7 deaths.

"Learning and practicing fire safety measures now will teach them how to protect themselves from fire while at school, and later they will carry these messages with them when they grow older and move away from home."

The five most common factors in campus related fatal fires since 2000 are:

- Missing or disabled smoke alarms
- Careless disposal of smoking materials
- Impaired judgment from alcohol consumption
- Lack of automatic fire sprinklers in off-campus housing

Students will receive fire safety messages on school days via Twitter at twitter.com/msfiresafe and on @MSInsuranceDept. The Mississippi State Fire Marshal can also be found on Facebook. For more information on Campus Fire Safety Month, contact the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office at 1-888-648-0877.